



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 9, 2002

To Federal Employees:

All Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to Federal workers like you who have devoted themselves to helping us recover from the attacks of September 11. Now, as we work together to prevent a future attack on our homeland and to defeat terrorism, I want you to know how valuable — and valued — your efforts have been.

You have an important understanding of the strengths and shortcomings of the Federal Government. I believe no one is more committed than you to making our Government work more effectively.

As you know, I have proposed a new Department of Homeland Security. We need this Department because today more than 100 separate Federal agencies and organizations play some role in homeland security. The creation of a single, unified Cabinet-level Department with a single, overriding mission — the protection of our homeland — will improve our effectiveness, enhance our readiness to respond to threats, and increase accountability.

The Department of Homeland Security will bring a great variety of people and responsibilities together, under one roof, working toward one mission, with one clear line of authority for getting the job done. It will involve the best people, provide them the resources they need to perform their duties successfully, and reward their best efforts accordingly.

Public service is not just a job. It is an act of citizenship and a noble calling. Our Nation is stronger today than it was before the attacks, and much of the credit for that belongs to you. As we move forward to create the new Department of Homeland Security, I know that America can continue to rely on your devotion to duty, your dedication to excellence, and your commitment to this important mission. Our challenges are great, but our determination to succeed is even greater. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do to help America prevail over terrorism.

GEORGE W. BUSH